

CHAPTER: III <b>OTHER PROGS &amp; SRVCS</b>	SECTION: 11 <b>REFUGEE ASSISTANCE</b>	COMAR:
--	--	--------

**Qualifying Note:** The RCA and RMA Programs are separate Federal programs, described in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), but administered by case managers. Program information and basic eligibility requirements are provided here.

## REQUIREMENTS

- A. Immigrants may apply for both Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)
- B. Applicants must be immigrants who:
  - 1. Are ineligible for any other FIP or federal assistance programs but meet RCA need standards and/or RMA financial eligibility standards
  - 2. Are awaiting determination of eligibility for SSI or another disability/old age program
  - 3. Meet income and applicable employment or employability standards
  - 4. Provide the name of their resettlement agency
  - 5. Are not full-time students in institutions of higher education, as defined by the Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), unless higher education is part of an individual's employability plan
  - 6. Have not exceeded the period of payment determined by the Director, ORR each fiscal year

## ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

- A. Verify technical eligibility for RCA and/or RMA including refugee or asylee status
- B. Determine financial eligibility using TCA and/or MA criteria as modified by the circumstances of immigrants who are technically eligible for RCA and/or RMA

Note: Refugees are eligible for 5 years from date of entry. The 5-year eligibility period for asylees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, Amerasians, and immigrants whose deportation or removal has been withheld begins with the date immigrant status was obtained even if the status is Legal Permanent Resident (LPR)

CHAPTER: III <b>OTHER PROGS &amp; SRVCS</b>	SECTION: 11 <b>REFUGEE ASSISTANCE</b>	COMAR:
--	--	--------

**Note:** Customers of RCA who are ineligible for MA are eligible for RMA. However, applicants/customers are ineligible for RMA if they have been denied or terminated from RCA for failing or refusing to accept employability services or employment.

## **EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY SERVICES**

- A. All RCA applicants/customers must register for employment or employability services unless they are exempt
  - 1. Local departments may require an individual employed at least 30 hours per week to participate in part-time employability services if it does not interfere with the individual's job
  - 2. Individuals must register for and participate in employment or employability services even if they do not speak English
  - 3. Exempt individuals may voluntarily register for employment
- B. All household individuals who are not exempt must develop an individual employability plan as part of the family self-sufficiency plan:
- C. All employability services and employment must be appropriate according to RCA standards
- D. Failure or refusal to accept employability services or employment results in one of the following:
  - 1. Deregistration (with no effect on the individual's cash assistance) of a voluntary registrant from the program, at local department discretion, for up to 90 days from the date of determination of failure or refusal
  - 2. Termination of assistance when a mandatory registrant voluntarily quits a job or fails or refuses, without good cause, to participate in a program or accept a job offer

## **MEDICAL SERVICES**

- A. RMA services must at least equal services provided under MA
- B. Services in addition to MA, such as those that might be provided by county hospitals, are available to refugees to the extent that funds are available

CHAPTER: III <b>OTHER PROGS &amp; SRVCS</b>	SECTION: 11 <b>REFUGEE ASSISTANCE</b>	COMAR:
--	--	--------

C. Provide medical screening if:

1. The screening is in accordance with requirements set by the Director, ORR or a designee
2. The Director, ORR has received written approval for the program or project from the State

**Note:** Medical screening may be provided without prior verification of eligibility for RMA if performed within 90 days of the refugee's initial entry into the United States.